

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/J:WSHERMAN:CB

APPROVED BY EA:MR. HUMMEL

EA - MR. HABIB

EA - MR. SNEIDER

EA/K - HNEWSOM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196865

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, KS

SUBJECT: DETERIORATION OF JAPANESE-KOREAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) SEOUL 5882, (B) TOKYO 11599

1. GREATLY APPRECIATE RAPID RESPONSES PROVIDED REFTELS. DESPITE GROWING ATMOSPHERE OF TENSION, REFTELS INDICATE CERTAIN AREAS OF FLEXIBILITY WHICH WE BELIEVE COULD BE USEFULLY ENCOURAGED BY INFORMING BOTH GOJ AND ROKG OF OUR UNDERSTANDING OF OTHER SIDE'S ATTITUDE. THUS FAR WE HAVE BEEN ABLE MAINTAIN HONEST BROKER ROLE, NOT INVOLVING OURSELVES AS ADVOCATES OF ANY SPECIFIC POSITION, AND WE BELIEVE THIS CONTINUES TO BE BEST COURSE OF ACTION. AT SAME TIME, UNLESS ADDRESSEES SEE OBJECTION, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL INFORM KOREANS OF KIMURA'S MORE FORTHCOMING POSITION AS DESCRIBED PARAS 5 AND 6 REFTEL A AND TAKING OPPORTUNITY TO URGE THEM AGAIN TO TURN OFF DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH CAN ONLY INFLAME SITUATION AND MAKE
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IT MORE DIFFICULT TO RESPOND. SIMILARLY, WE BELIEVE THAT WE COULD ILLUMINATE GOJ UNDERSTANDING OF DEPTH OF

KOREAN FEELINGS BY CONVEYING TO THEM SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL A, STRESSING SOME OF FLEXIBILITIES (I.E., WILLINGNESS TO DEFER TIMING OF SENDING OF EMMISSARY) THAT ARE BEGINNING TO EMERGE.

2. HABIB WILL BE SEEING BOTH ROK AND GOJ AMBASSADORS SEPTEMBER 9 AND WILL TAKE SIMILAR LINES WITH THEM. KISSINGER

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